



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Idaho State Department of Education

June 3, 2011

www.sde.idaho.gov

Media contact:

Melissa McGrath

(208) 332-6818

mrmcgrath@sde.idaho.gov

MOSCOW SCHOOL WINS NATIONAL HEALTH AWARD

BOISE – A Moscow elementary school is one of 100 across the country to be recognized nationally for creating a healthy school environment for students. A.B. McDonald Elementary School has been awarded the HealthierUS School Challenge's Silver award.

"I congratulate all the students, staff and parents of A.B. McDonald Elementary School and the Moscow School District," Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna said. "The HealthierUS School Challenge recognizes schools for their commitment to student health and nutrition, which we know can help children perform better academically."

The HealthierUS School Challenge is a voluntary initiative established in 2004 to recognize those schools participating in the National School Lunch Program that have created healthier school environments through promotion of nutrition and physical activity. To win an award, schools must:

- Improve the quality of the foods served,
- Provide students with nutrition education, and
- Provide students with physical education and opportunities for physical activity.

"The Moscow School District is proud of our nutrition and health programs, and we look forward to enhancing the effort through the 'Silver level HealthierUS School Challenge Award' by recognizing the importance of creating healthier school environments through the promotion of good nutrition and physical activity," said Dale Kleinert, Superintendent of the Moscow School District.

At A.B. McDonald Elementary School and throughout the Moscow School District, students have access to healthy food choices, nutrition education, school gardens, physical education and health classes, and a wide array of physical activities before and after school. The district has established a strong partnership with the Health, Physical Education, and Nutrition Departments at the University of Idaho.

In addition, the Moscow School District strongly advocates for employee health and wellness with activities and challenges throughout the school year, including health fairs, a monthly newsletter, pedometer competitions, and nutrition and wellness workshops.

Officials from the HealthierUS School Challenge will visit A.B. McDonald Elementary School this fall to present the award.

In 2009, Gooding Elementary School in Idaho became the first school in the nation to receive the Gold of Distinction Award from HealthierUS School Challenge. To learn more about the HealthierUS School Challenge, visit <http://teamnutrition.usda.gov/healthierus/index.html>.

#####

Office Location
650 West State Street

Telephone
208-332-6800

Speech/Hearing Impaired
1-800-377-3529

Fax
208-334-2228
